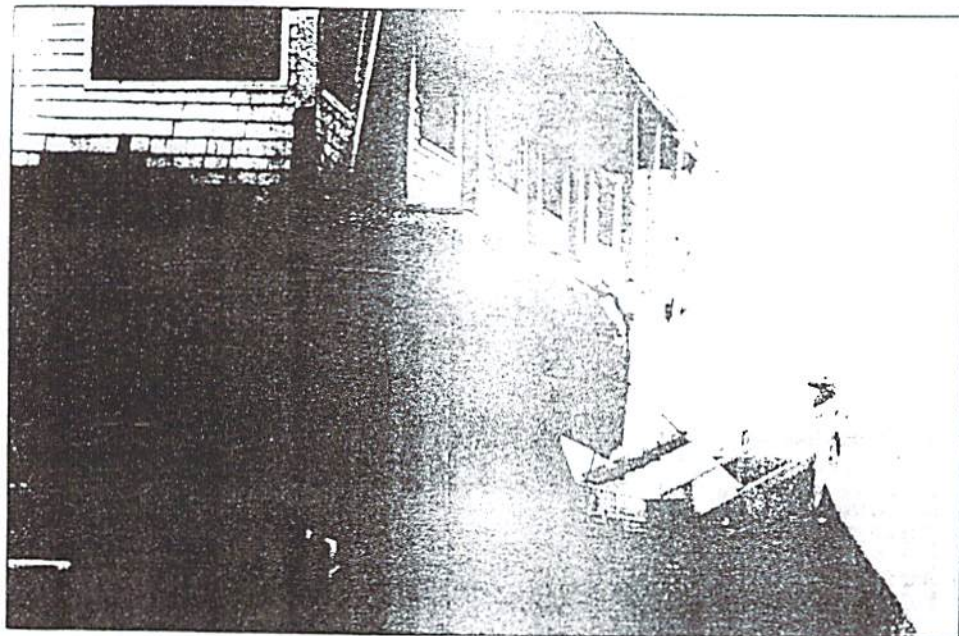


Storm front



Ocean Inn — The Gurnet Inn hosted an unwelcome guest during the storm — the Atlantic.

Staff photo/Charles Mathewson

'I don't know what way to turn'

Coastal residents assess the damage to property from last week's devastating storm

By Sarah Love
MFG Newspapers

DUXBURY — Ocean Road North resident Elizabeth Fallon compared the water rushing over her cellar stairs to Niagara Falls.

"It's a mess," she said of her neighborhood Monday. "I've been here 50 years and I've never seen anything like this."

She, and everybody else on her street, is simply waiting for insurance adjusters to assess the damage to their homes.

"I don't know which way to turn," she said from her home where she is now stuck with an injured leg which resulted from the cramped ride to safety during the height of the storm.

In the 20 years she and her husband, Malcolm, have owned the coastal home, they've never had to leave in an emergency.

"By the time we were ready to go, we couldn't get out," Fallon said. Fire and police personnel had to walk them through the water and to safety.

Malcolm Fallon was trying to remove a porch from his front yard Thursday. No one knew whose porch.

Fallon said sand and debris are still covering everything. With winds gusting to an estimated 40 m.p.h., nothing was sacred. The garage door blew in and the new car may be totaled, she said.

The power was out from Wednesday until Saturday.

The storm not only took material possessions from the Fallons, it also took their sense of security.

"I never stay through that again. We don't stay that at our age," she said.

James, the only home on Duxbury Beach, owned by the 60-year-old, ended up painting the house Wednesday. The painting eased his fear of the storm, which he had feared would smash through the woods from the beach.

James was lucky. The only thing standing on Duxbury Beach was the house, he said Thursday after a treacherous storm had washed his home to the bridge.

High Pines is situated in a crater like the one James faced only the ravages of water. With most of the flooding done in Thursday's early morning tide, the structural damage will be mainly due to wet wood, he said.

Although the 25-year-old admits he was pretty young at the time of the Blizzard of '78, he said the damage is equal if not worse to his area.

Cudmore also had an unexpected visitor Wednesday night. A Gurnet resident trying to return home couldn't get through. His truck was caught by rushing water and flipped over. The man was uninjured and swam to High Pines where he stayed the night.

Joe Brenner, a resident of the Gurnet for 10 years could only go on rumor as to the damage in that area. He had heard Thursday his home was damaged but 12 feet of cliff had washed away.

According to conservation commission chairman Shawn Dahlen, an aerial view Saturday showed there was "significant erosion on the eastern side of Gurnet point."

Dahlen said the cliffs of Gurnet may be eroded as much as 20 feet but no home appeared to be damaged.

Agush was basically untouched," he said. No trees were knocked down or shifted from foundation.

Storm caused a number of problems

DUXBURY — There have been many numbers tossed about since last week's nor'easter swamped the coastline. Here's just a few of them.

► **78** — The last time a storm packed the kind of punch as last week's. Most agree that last week's storm will be remembered as more powerful than the Blizzard of '78.

► **20** — The height waves reached during the height of the storm. We've heard higher and lower, but this was the most consistent height of the surf.

► **30** — The length of three sailboats that were washed away by the storm from Duxbury. There were 30 boats in total that broke away from their moorings.

► **9** — The number of homes condemned by the building inspector on Gurnet Road, Ocean Road North and South and Lewis Court. Those homes will have to be demolished.

► **2,000,000** — The conservative estimate in millions of what it will cost to rebuild Duxbury Beach. A member of the beach reservation put the estimate as high as \$4,000,000.

► **50** — The expanded width, in feet, of Duxbury Beach in the wake of the storm.

► **3** — The number of state officials who flew over Duxbury Beach Saturday night to assess damages. Those three included Gov. William Weld, lieutenant governor Paul Cellucci and the assistant secretary of public safety.

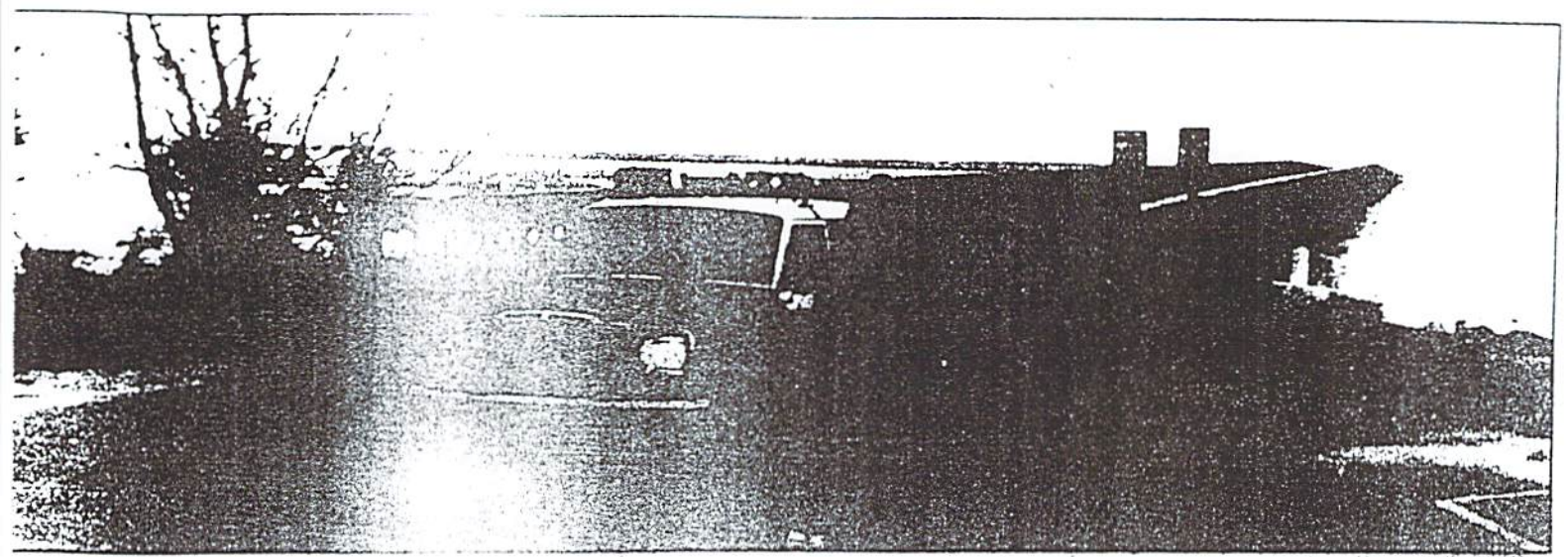


Staff photo/Sarah Love

New bay — The overwashes occurring on Duxbury Beach were evident in the height of the tide across the bay. The parking lot at Mattakeset Court was underwater at 4:30 p.m.

Help is available

DUXBURY — The Red Cross wishes to announce that Duxbury residents affected by the recent storm may seek aid at the Eames Way School in Marshfield. Some of the help that is available for residents includes cleaning up kits, financial aid vouchers and health needs. Residents need to present a driver's license or picture for identification purposes.



Staff photo/John Lowe

admittance — Duxbury police without sand, sporadic rain, and persistent requests to cross. Access to Duxbury Beach via the Powder Point Bridge closed early last Wednesday and has not been reopened.